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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES AT ARGENTINE MAY DAY RALLY

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Because of the political tension building up since late March and heightened by the 15 April rioting and subsequent arrests, further incidents could precipitate serious civil disturbances. The chief opposition group, the Radical Party, declared in its 27 April convention that it would "fight Peron in every field," thus ending the truce it made with Peron last May. There is no clear indication, however, that most opposition elements would at this time risk further reprisals by attempting to avenge the sacking of their headquarters by the usually pro-Peron Alliance. In any event, it is unlikely that any incidents would be serious enough to topple the regime since Peron reportedly still controls the key power groups -- the army, police, and labor.

The sharpened antagonism between Peron and the opposition, with each condemning the other for the current difficulties, is most susceptible to exploitation by the Communists and extreme nationalists who wish to deter any gestures by Peron toward improving relations with the United States. The Communists would stand to gain the most by precipitating an incident which would increase political instability and thereby force Peron to rely more on leftist labor advice. An indication of the administration's serious concern for political unrest was indicated by a 29 April pro-government editorial urging the masses to stage a pro-Peron, anti-imperialist rally on May Day.

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